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ABSTRACT

This booklet asserts that if states are to achieve the goal of educating all students to higher levels of learning, they must develop comprehensive and coherent standards-based education systems. The American Federation of Teachers' guidelines are: (1) standards must focus on academics; (2) standards must be grade by grade or clustered for selected grade spans in elementary, middle, and high school; (3) standards must be clear and specific enough to lead to a common core curriculum; (4) standards must include particular content in each of the four content areas: English, math, science, and social studies; (5) standards must attend to both content and skills; (6) standards must be manageable, given time restraints; (7) standards must not dictate how material should be taught; (8) standards must be rigorous and "world class"; and (9) standards must be written clearly enough for all stakeholders to understand. (SM)

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